

# RED CROSS WORK



## MY EXPERIENCE AS A RED CROSS NURSE

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SINCE we are learning more about the Red Cross, and becoming more interested, perhaps my experience as a Red Cross nurse at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, caring for the tornado sufferers, will not seem trite. It may be of interest to know how the work is done at such a time.

The village of Purvis, eighteen miles from the city of Hattiesburg, was almost entirely destroyed by the tornado. Sixty people were killed and about two hundred injured. The patients were taken by train to the hospitals in Hattiesburg and all available vacancies were utilized, after which army tents were put up for the remaining patients.

Our work was chiefly surgical. There were many fractures, scalp wounds, infections, etc. One case of erysipelas developed but very good recovery was made.

The Red Cross nurses were placed on duty wherever the tornado patients were located. We were transferred to the different hospitals so that each nurse had experience in the "tents" or field hospital. The United States hospital corps men assisted us, as male nurses, and we also had colored attendants.

The "tents" were prettily situated in two rows underneath the trees near the Gulf and Ship Island Hospital. To the nurse who is not familiar with field hospitals, it is quite novel and most interesting. On my first visit to the "tents" I was immediately impressed with the perfect hospital equipment and was anxious to work in them.

The surgical tent was most complete. It contained the water and dressing sterilizers, supply closet, gas stove, temporary operating table, water supply, electric lights, and army chests, in which were surgical supplies, medicines, etc.

Another tent was known as the office tent. The patients' records were kept here and here the doctors' orders were left at the end of "rounds." The remaining tents were occupied by patients. Each tent was nicely fitted up with a substantial floor, either three or four hospital beds, and electric lights. Being located in a city, and not at the place

of devastation, lighting, water supply, and sanitary conditions were easily perfected.

Two adjoining tents served as a dining tent for the patients who were able to be up. Sidewalks were placed the entire length of the hospital field. Every comfort and convenience for both nurses and patients were carefully considered and too much praise cannot be given the government officials who were in charge of the relief work.

We visited Purvis, the stricken village. It beggars description and the painful experiences told us by the sufferers were most pathetic. To me it was indeed a satisfaction to be able to care for those who were in dire distress and need. It made me fully realize what the Red Cross means, and I wondered why the humane endeavor of such a worthy society does not appeal to more nurses.

We were received with every courtesy by the people of the south, and my entire experience as a Red Cross nurse was most heartily enjoyed.

#### ITEM

SINCE our last report, the following nurses have enrolled in the New York State Branch of the American National Red Cross: J. Estelle Miner, R.N., New York City; Lottie S. Argabrite, R.N., New York City; Nora Brown, R.N., New York City; Emma Frances Giblyn, R.N., New York City; Edith Agnes Hentchel, R.N., New York City; Jane Theresa Taylor, R.N., Panama; Martha Montague Russell, R.N., New York City; Agnes Gertrude Queenen, R.N., New York City; Gladys Anne Christopher, R.N., Troy; Eudocia Jeanette Higley, R.N., Troy; Guy C. Wolcott Ross, R.N., New York City; Eleanor M. Scott, R.N., Rochester; Edith Kelly, R.N., New York City; Minnie E. Lumney, R.N., New York City; Agnes S. Ward, R.N., New York City; Anna J. Brambach, R.N., Panama; Edith Abrams, R.N., New York City; Ida M. Collins, R.N., Troy; Grace A. Stiles, R.N., Troy; Martha Jane Stewart, R.N., Troy; Carolyn A. Wagner, R.N., Troy; Laura B. Bunting, R.N., New York City.



TENT FOR PATIENTS



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